

In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 3 retail outlet dealership and 1 LPG distributorship have been included in the retail outlet and LPG Marketing Plan 1999-2000 for the State of Meghalaya.

Exploration of Oil in coastal areas

†1805. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for exploring the petroleum and natural gas in various parts of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is ample quantum of oil available in Indian coastal areas; and

(c) if so, the details of action Government are taking to explore the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The general action plans for exploring petroleum and natural gas are outlined in five year Plan Documents which are further broken up by the National Oil Companies (NOCs) into their annual plans. Exploration programmes in the blocks awarded through competitive route are being implemented as per the work commitments of the operating companies.

(b) Prognosticated hydrocarbon resources for offshore areas of India are estimated to be about 18.7 Billion tonnes out of which geological reserves of about 3.94 Billion tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas have been established till 1.4.2001.

(c) In addition to the exploration programmes of National Oil Companies (NOCs) in respect of areas held by them on nomination basis, Government of India have been offering exploration acreages in offshore areas for exploration by Private / Joint Venture (JV) companies. During the various exploration rounds, floated by Government, including two rounds under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), a total of 49 offshore blocks (Shallow water 34-blocks, Deep Water-15 blocks) have been contracted for exploration by NOCs as also Private/ JV sector companies. Exploration activities are being extended in deeper offshore

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areas. Government is also opening up areas for future exploration through reconnitory surveys.

Cancellation of petrol pumps

†1806. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps cancelled by Government during the year 2001 on the basis of complaints received against petrol pumps; and

(b) the action being taken against the owners of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In the year 2001, Public Sector Oil Companies terminated in all 67 retail outlets out of which 2 were based on the complaints received against them in line with the dealership agreement / Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Export of petroleum products

†1807. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total sale of petroleum products has continuously increased during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) if not, the year-wise break up of the increased sale of total petroleum products in the aforesaid years; and

(c) the year-wise details of each product exported alongwith the quantity thereof during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The

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